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*The*  
*Belchamber*

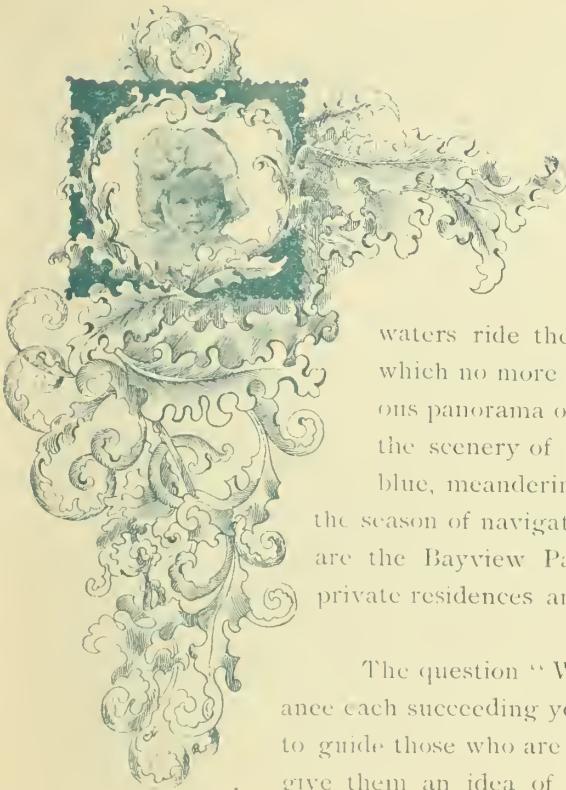


John Buckley  
Architect

Sarnia, Ont.



SCENE ON WEESBEACH.



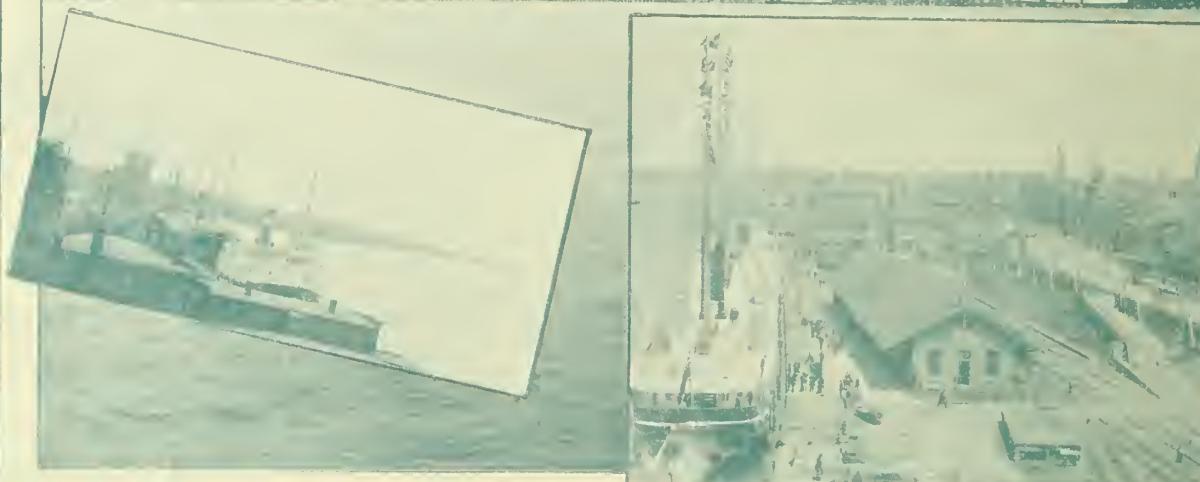
SARNIA has a naturally beautiful situation, its western boundary being washed by the smooth, gliding river St. Clair and the quieter and more tranquil waters of Sarnia bay, while its northern shores are alternately lapped and lashed by the waves of grand old Huron, upon the bosom of whose mighty waters ride the immense commerce of the great lakes, the floating palaces, than which no more superb specimens of marine architecture are to be seen. A continuous panorama of craft of every size and description, rivalling in grandeur and beauty the scenery of any country, ancient or modern, as the noble steamships plow the blue, meandering current, is the sight to be witnessed any and every day during the season of navigation from a hundred convenient points, not among the least of which are the Bayview Park Casino, the balconies of the many beautifully situated hotels, private residences and business blocks of the town.

The question "Where shall we go for health and pleasure?" assumes greater importance each succeeding year with the people of this country, and these pages have been written to guide those who are in doubt about the matter to this highly favored locality; also, to give them an idea of what Sarnia has to offer for their health, pleasure and comfort.

First, then, you who have "that tired feeling" from long months of constant poring over books, in the



Sarnia.  
1893.



THE RIVER FRONT.

counting room, at school or college, or from the enervating influences of the dry and untempered air of inland cities and towns, come to Sarnia and inhale the cool, health-giving and invigorating breezes of lake and river, drink from the purest, clearest river in the world—so pure and clear in fact that at a depth of forty feet and over objects lying on the bed of the river may be distinctly discerned as you float o'er the surface in a “boatie row.” This same sparkling water is pumped by a powerful system of water works throughout the town, for household purposes and to keep the many beautiful lawns and gardens of the town fresh and green. And right here it might not be inappropriate to add that there are few, if any, towns in the country that can boast of so many beautiful and well kept lawns and residence properties as Sarnia. An effective sewer system completes the sanitary arrangements of the town, ensuring immunity from epidemics. With abundance of water is afforded every opportunity for bathing, and facilities are not lacking for the thorough enjoyment of this healthful and pleasurable exercise, further treatise on which will appear elsewhere in this work.

Sarnia's monetary institutions and mercantile houses are sound, and there is no more favorable point in Canada for the successful carrying on of large commercial enterprises, supplied as the town is with unparalleled natural advantages for shipping, both by rail and water. There is an abundance of river, lake and bay frontage for the construction of large docks for all kinds of traffic by water and favorably situated business sites for all classes of manufactoryes.

The schools of the town rank among the best of the land, being splendidly equipped and modern in appearance.

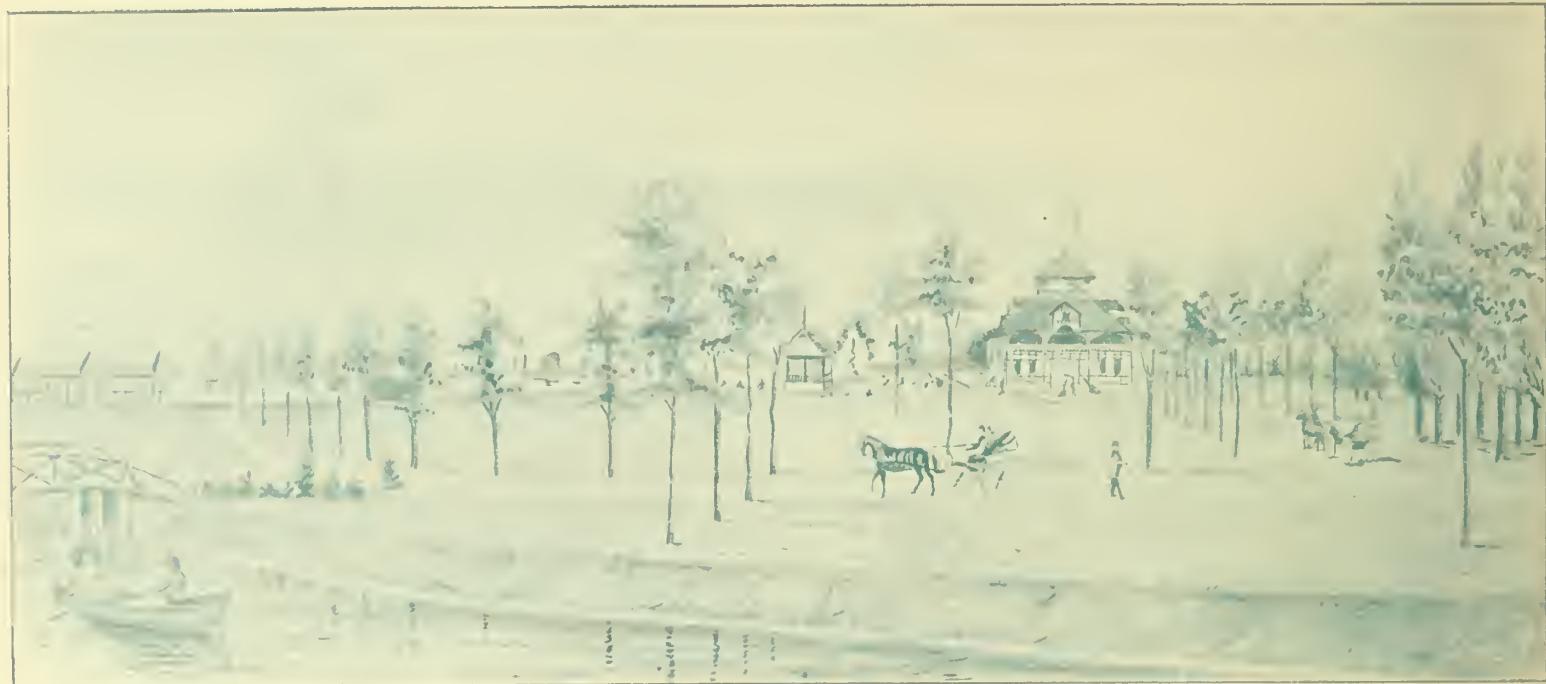


THE SARNIA CURLING AND SKATING RINK.

## The Boys' Brigade Gymnasium

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**A**SIDE from the various means afforded for outdoor exercise are the special advantages offered at the Boys' Brigade drill hall and gymnasium. For this exceedingly well-appointed institution the town has to thank Mr. T. W. Nisbet, manager of the local branch of the Bank of Commerce, who takes great interest in the youth of our land, and who has organized several companies of the Boys' Brigade, besides being connected with the international organization. The building is a circular roofed brick and stone structure, 61 x 119 feet, heated by steam throughout. In the basement, in addition to heating apparatus, is a tank for a plunge bath, 16 x 32 feet and seven feet deep, which is warmed by a heater from the boiler. There are five shower baths, which are also supplied with hot and cold water, and lavatory in the basement. The main floor is the drill room proper, with a reading room 13 x 21 feet on the right, and ticket office and lavatory on the left. The drill room is 57 x 90 feet, with a hanging gallery running completely around the apartment, fitted up for a running track and with seating room for audience. The drill room is fitted with trapeze, horizontal and parallel bars, travelling rings, ladders and all the appliances and fittings of a complete gymnasium. At the west end of the hall stands the platform, arranged in movable sections, that it may be enlarged, reduced or removed altogether, as circumstances may require. Light is supplied by three large skylights in the roof and the building is fitted up for gas and electric light. On the second floor, on the right at the entrance above the main hall is a large room 16 x 22, which may be used as a kindergarten school. At the left the private office of the manager. The cost of the property entire exceeds \$10,000.



BAY VIEW PARK.



## Sarnia Parks

"If our town had that park we would consider we had a fortune." This and similar expressions are constantly to be heard upon the first view of Bayview Park by admiring visitors.

The people of Sarnia have wisely made liberal provision for breathing spaces within their borders. In addition to the ample grounds which surround the public schools and the Collegiate Institute, and the market square, there are three public parks. One is in the south end of the town, and is known as Dufferin park. It is a square containing seven acres, and is as yet unimproved, the Tunnel Company having had the use of the land during the progress of the tunnel works. Another year will probably see it fenced in, and planted with trees. A second park is in the centre of the town, and contains two acres. It is named Victoria square, and is laid out in grass and gravel walks, with shade trees and band stand. It is a popular resort on summer evenings, when the 27th Battalion band adds the attraction of its excellent open air concert. The third and principal park is to the north of the town, and includes the bay shore. It is called the Bayview Park and athletic grounds, and comprises in all about 65 acres of land. This land, with the exception of two small parcels of private property which had to be acquired by purchase, was a gift by the Grand Trunk railway to the town for the purposes to which it is now applied. With the exception of a small piece of high land, nicely wooded with old oak trees, the whole when acquired by the town was a marsh, presenting no attractions, but many difficulties in the way of successfully converting it into a pleasure resort. This, however, has been most satisfactorily accomplished. A dredge cut, thirty feet wide, was made from the bay around the entire property, which has most effectively drained not only the park grounds, but much surrounding land in the village of Point Edward and in



BAY VIEW TRACK.

the township. It also supplied a large quantity of material—sand, clay, and gravel—which enabled the board of management to carry out the improvement of the ground at a very moderate cost. About three miles of drives have been laid out, some thousand or more shade trees and very many shrubs planted. A handsome casino has been erected, capable of sheltering several thousand people in case of rain, and from the upper stories a very fine view of the river and surrounding country may be obtained. There are also boat and bathing houses, and under the trees are many swings at the pleasure of the young folks. The park has been rendered still more attractive by a handsome fountain, supplied from the town water works; and by numerous flower beds, some very artistic plats having been laid out by the Royal Arcanum, Independent Order of Foresters, the Maccabees, L. O. L. and the Sons of Scotland. A rustic foot bridge across the cut gives access to the park at the south end, nearest the town; while the main entrance on the east is approached by a wide carriage bridge, opposite which is the platform on the G. T. R. line, where all excursion trains stop to land and receive passengers. The Sarnia street railway system encircles the park to the south, east, and north, passing the gates of the park and athletic grounds; and with a very efficient service renders the grounds easy of access, both from Sarnia and Point Edward as well as from Port Huron and Fort Gratiot. It is the intention before long to deepen the channel in the bay, enabling the ferries to ply to the park.

The athletic grounds are to the north of the free park, and are second to none in the Dominion. The bicycle track, a third-of-a-mile, oval, fifteen feet wide, increasing to twenty on the home stretch, and made of cinders, salt and cement gravel, has already earned a reputation for itself among the cyclists of the continent, holding all Canadian records from  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to five miles, inclusive. The half mile horse track with its excellent stabling, is also becoming known to turf men as a first-class track. Inside these is a perfectly level field, ten acres in extent, with an excellent cricket crease in the centre and a ball diamond at one end. In the outfield are good football and lacrosse grounds. There is a large grand stand, with convenient club rooms. The work has been carried out on

The Finest Summer Resort in Western Ontario. ©



© A Smooth Sandy Beach for Surf Bathing.

\$14,000 of public money raised by debentures spent upon the free park, and private subscriptions amounting to \$6,000 spent upon the athletic grounds, in addition to other sums annually applied toward the improvements.



## Annual Bicycle Meet, August 15, 1894.

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PROBABLY the greatest drawing card Sarnia has is her bicycle track. The Sarnia Bicycle club is a strong institution, and, having perfected the track until it has become the finest track in America, holds many attractive meets during the season. In 1893 the C. W. A. meet was held here, and on AUGUST 15, 1894, the regular annual meet, given by the club, will be held. At this meet will appear a number of the fastest cyclists on the continent. It was on the Sarnia track that the two fast American riders, A. A. Zimmerman and W. C. Sanger, first met, and here they broke four records. J. S. Johnson is another fast American rider who made a mark on this track. Here the best wheelmen of the country congregate annually, and the meet of 1894 promises to equal if not excel any of the very successful meets previously held.

W. G. B. B.

STAG ISLAND



## Boating and Fishing

**T**HE waters of the bay wash the shores of the park, and nothing is more delightful than to secure a boat on a bright moonlight night, and, when

"The winds are all hushed and the waters at rest,"

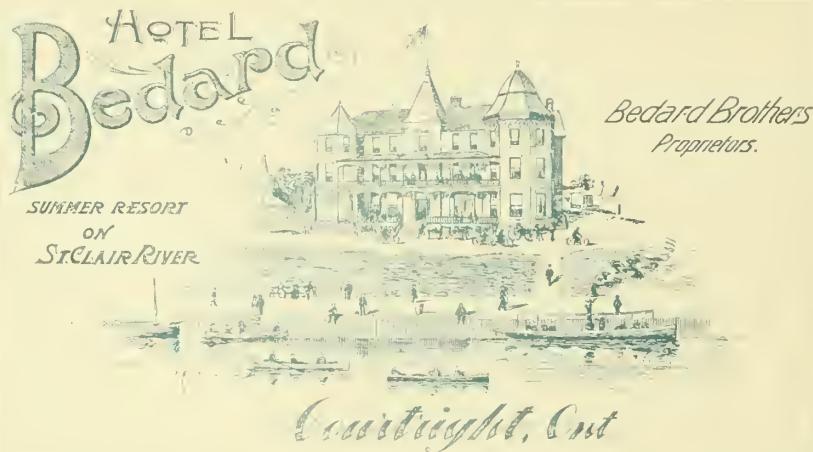
launch out on the bay. So entrancing is the effect that you are almost forced to sing:

"What fairy-like music steals over the sea,  
Entrancing the senses with charm'd melody."

To go out boating on the bay in the early morning and gather water lilies, or, with hook and line, angle for the timid perch, pickerel, herring or bass, with which the waters hereabout abound, are also among the pleasant pastimes here afforded.

# Thousands of People....

HAVE annually visited this spot to enjoy the excellent fishing and boating facilities afforded, but until recently only indifferent hotel accommodations were to be had. Realizing this state of affairs and also that visitors could be attracted with proper and sufficient hotel resources, Messrs. BEDARD & SONS erected a fine brick hotel, now known as the **Hotel Bedard**, and fitted it with all modern improvements and conveniences, the sanitary arrangements being unexcelled. It is elegantly furnished throughout and directly fronts and overlooks the beautiful St.



RATES BY THE WEEK IN SUMMER ARE VERY MODERATE AND  
ACCORDING TO LOCATION OF ROOMS. BY THE DAY \$1.50  
SPECIAL RATES TO THE C. W. A.

\* Distances between Courtright and Sarnia and Port Huron, 12 miles. Petrolia, 26 miles.  
Chatham, 44 miles. Windsor, 53 miles. St. Thomas, 66 miles. London, 68 miles. Toronto,  
200 miles. Buffalo, 200 miles. Detroit, 53 miles. Courtright is accessible by M. C. Ryd.  
E & H or by boats. For further particulars apply to

A. A. BEDARD, Courtright, Ont.

## Bathing

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HERE is perhaps nothing more refreshing on a hot summer day than to take a plunge in the lake. The beach along the shores of Lake Huron, north of Sarnia, is especially adapted for this enjoyable, as well as invigorating, exercise. Numerous cottages have been erected by private parties on the bluffs overhanging the beach, but the most pretentious structure there is the Grand View Hotel at Weesbeach, where every comfort and convenience for summer visitors is provided. In addition to the large and elegant hotel (see frontispiece and page 16) is a fine easino for dancing, boat and bath houses, supplied with all the requisites peculiar to such places. The beach is hard sandy bottom, sloping gently and gradually out to deep water, and is taken advantage of by bathing parties numbering many hundreds every season. From the balconies of the hotel a most magnificent view of the lake, dotted with a myriad craft, is to be had, and there is scarcely a more gorgeous prospect than sunset o'er the lake as viewed from this point.

# • Stag Island Park •



## TIME CARD. ☀ PORT HURON FERRY CO.

Steamer Hiawatha. • Wednesdays and Fridays • Sarnia to Stag Island and Return.

### SARNIA TIME.

LEAVE.	ARRIVE.	LEAVE.	ARRIVE.
SARNIA - 10.40 A. M.	ISLAND - 11.10 A. M.	ISLAND - 11.30 A. M.	SARNIA, - 12.30 P. M.
" 2.00 P. M.	" 2.30 P. M.	" 3.10 P. M.	" 4.10 P. M.
" 6.40 P. M.	" 7.10 P. M.	" 8.10 P. M.	" 9.10 P. M.

Fare, Round Trip, 15 Cents.

Boats leaving Port Huron 10 a. m., 1.20 p. m. and 6 p. m., (Port Huron time) will connect with Hiawatha for the Island. FARE, ROUND TRIP, FROM PORT HURON, 20 CENTS.

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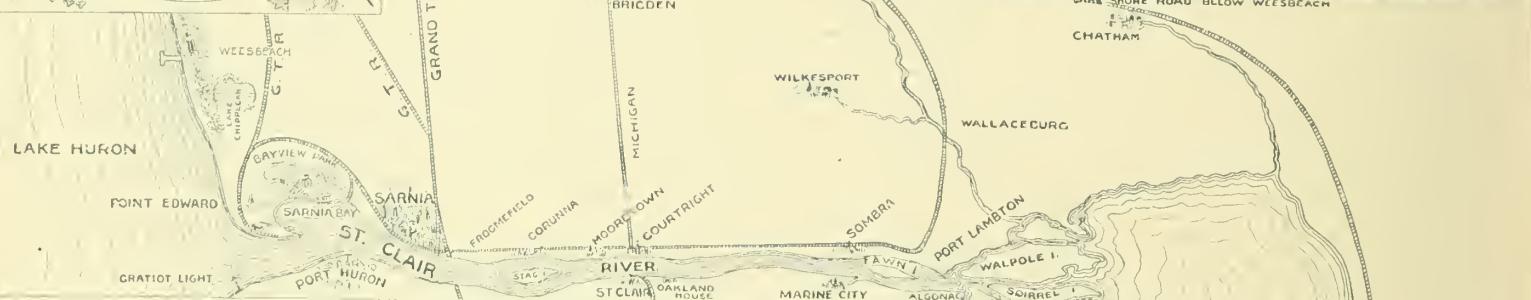
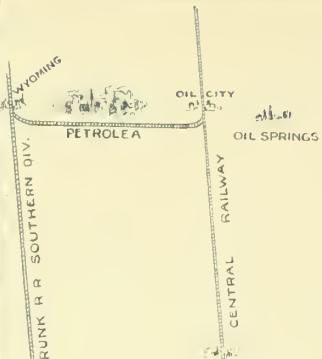
PORT HURON, MICHIGAN.

## Resorts

**I**N addition to Bayview Park and Weesbeach there are, a short distance from the town other pleasant places of resort, easy of access by rail and steamer. Among them is included Stag Island Park and the Hotel Bedard.

Stag Island is a beautiful island of the St. Clair river about six miles from Sarnia. It consists of about two hundred acres and is only 30 minutes ride from Sarnia or Port Huron by boat. On the island is located Stag Island Park, one of the finest picnic and excursion grounds on the river, with a fine casino pavilion, boat and bath houses and swings for the pleasure of visitors. There are also a number of summer cottages on the island. The park and cottages are under the immediate charge of Mr Robert Stockdale, a very accommodating, obliging and competent caretaker. The steamer Hiawatha runs to the island per time card elsewhere given in this work.

The Hotel Bedard is situated in the quiet and pleasant little village of Courtright, about twelve miles south of Sarnia, overlooking the St. Clair river. This hotel is fitted up with special regard for the demands of summer tourists and contains all the comforts and conveniences of a city hotel. Further reference is made on another page of this book, with engraving.



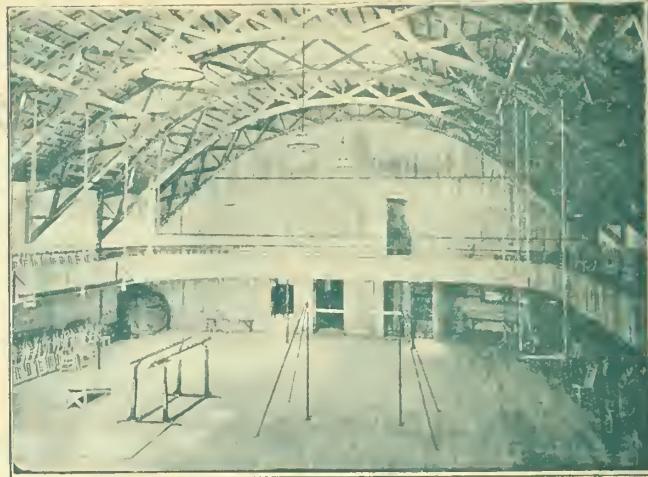
## The St. Clair Tunnel

EVERYBODY who visits Sarnia must see the great Tunnel as a matter of course. Their visit would be incomplete without taking a look at the great bore. On another page of this book a fine view of the portal of the Tunnel is given, showing the workmen engaged in making the cut for the approaches. The St. Clair Tunnel is the largest river tunnel in the world, being 2 18-100 miles long, including approaches, was built at a cost of about \$2,500,000, and is one of Sarnia's leading attractions. Through it passes the immense traffic, east and west, of the Grand Trunk railway, and it is also taken advantage of by other roads during the winter, being the only strictly reliable crossing at that season of the year on the chain of great lakes west of Niagara.



FRONT VIEW  
BACK VIEW

### THE BOYS' BRIGADE DRILL HALL.



INTERIOR FRONT VIEW.  
" BACK VIEW.





**The Northern Hotel.**

favor of Sarnia among all classes of tourists and pleasure seekers, and a corresponding improvement in the number and class of hotels, that it is doubtful if there is a town, and few cities, in Ontario that are in a better position to receive and give comfortable entertainment to the public, in whatever capacity they may come. Among the leading hotels of the town are the Belchamber, the Vendome, the Arlington, the Northern, all of which are shown in excellent plates on the pages of this work. The buildings are all of brick, first class in every appointment, situated convenient to all lines of railways and steamers. Among the conveniences of each are gas in every room, bath on each floor, efficient fire escapes and other modern appliances peculiar to first class hostellries. The town contains also a number of other good hotels and boarding houses.



THE ST. CLAIR TUNNEL.

## The Curling and Skating Rink

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LOVERS of the roarin' game will find located in Sarnia one the most commodious rinks in the country, accessible in summer for large concerts and parties and in winter for curling and skating. A very fine photogravure of the rink is given in this work. It was built by the Sarnia Curling and Skating Rink Club, Limited, at a cost of about \$10,000, and is centrally located. It is 160 feet in length by 80 feet in width. The skating surface is 70 x 140 feet, and around it is a raised platform five feet wide. The full height of the building from ground to main roof is fifty feet, and from ground to top of flag staff 82 feet. The building contains a vestibule and ticket office at each end, stairways and rooms above the vestibules, ladies' and gentlemen's waiting and toilet rooms, refreshment room, private room for club meetings, galleries, &c. The architect of this building and, also, of the Boys' Brigade gymnasium, is Mr H G Phillips, of Sarnia. The building has seating capacity for 5,000 people. It is a strueture of which a large city might well be prond.

# To Tourists and Summer Visitors

Stopping at this hotel is afforded one of the pleasantest prospects, the sweeping view of the broad St. Clair for miles up and down the river and the myriad craft that skim its surface being without a parallel.

Recently  
Enlarged  
and  
Entirely  
Renovated



A New  
House with  
all  
Modern  
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Will find every convenience, including  
Sample Rooms.

## Everybody

Will find here all the appointments of a  
first class hotel.

# Popular Trips



The Parks, the Tunnel,

Point Edward—the pretty little village north  
of Sarnia—the Beaches.

Are all accessible by means of the

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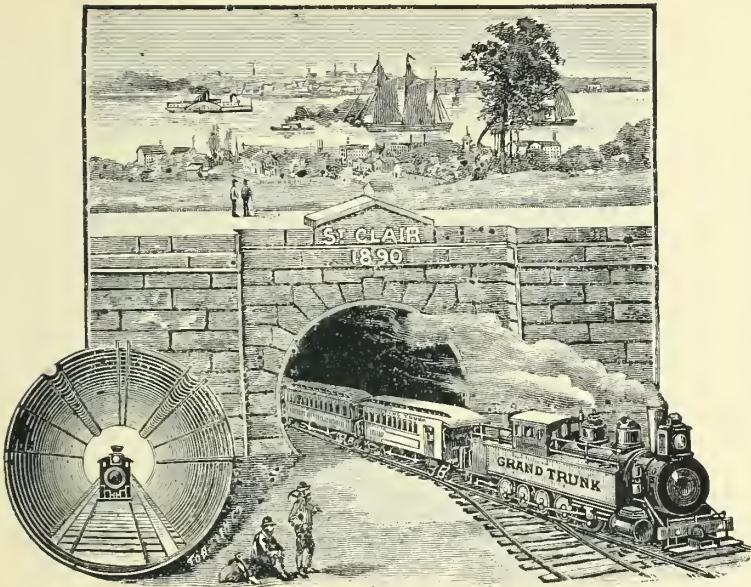
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